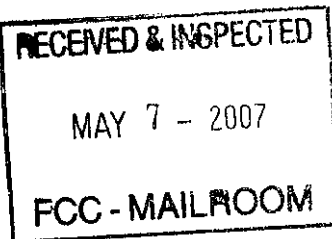


Proceeding WC Docket No. 02-36

RECEIVED FILE COPY ORIGIN



**Mail Correspondence To:**

Commission Secretary  
Telecom Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communication Commission  
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**Name of Applicant/Petitioner:**

St. Joseph's Hospital

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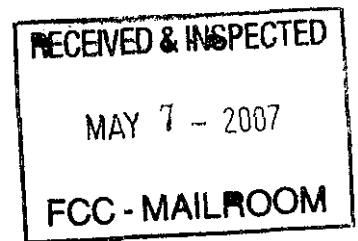
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**Document Type:** Application

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Rural Health Care Pilot Program Application  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin



**Background and Overview:**

The State of Wisconsin has a fiber network called BadgerNet that runs along several of the major highway systems in Wisconsin. The two communities of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls also each have within their city limits a fiber network.

If these two communities are connected, Chippewa Falls will become a hub that will enable over 25 rural communities in northwestern Wisconsin to connect to the Healthcare Education Government Response and have access to an Internet2 POP. In Wisconsin, we believe that with a little help, the public not-for-profit sector and government collaboration and commitment will take a major step in extending advanced healthcare telecommunication to the northwestern rural communities in Wisconsin.

This proposal and request involves three phases of extending the broadband communications required to conduct telemedicine to rural Wisconsin.

1. **8.8 miles from the North side of Eau Claire to the South side of Chippewa Falls. \$475,000**
2. **1.9 mile extension in Chippewa Falls CINC North to the St. Joseph's Health Care campus. This will provide a point of connectivity to multiple rural healthcare community facilities in northwestern Wisconsin. \$200,000**
3. **Replacement of an existing 12 strand fiber with a 72 strand fiber to relieve a bottleneck in Chippewa Falls. \$70,000**

The first extension: an **8.8 mile connection to Chippewa Falls**. By connecting an existing network in Chippewa Falls to the Eau Claire/BadgerNet network, we will extend the BadgerNet network to within 2 miles of the healthcare providers on the north side of Chippewa Falls. The second extension is a **two mile extension** from the north side of Chippewa Falls to the St. Joseph's Hospital medical campus. The campus includes St. Joseph's Hospital (a disproportionate share hospital), the Marshfield Clinic system (a Federally Qualified Healthcare Clinic [FQHC] with over 20 rural sites), a federal VA clinic, and a Federally Qualified Dental Clinic serving the rural population in five surrounding counties.

To connect the existing Chippewa Falls network to the BadgerNet and Internet2 network, the nearest connection is Eau Claire. This is an **8.8 mile** connection that is being made possible through the coalition of not-for-profits, government agencies, schools and health care providers. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is about to install a fiberlink for their own use along this **8.8 mile** stretch. The contractor who will be installing this line has agreed, if funding is available, to install a second **288** fiber line at the same time that he is installing the Department of Transportation line. This

opportunity will be extremely cost beneficial. The estimated cost for 8.8 miles is \$475,000. Numerous groups have come together to participate in funding this **8.8** mile connection. We are seeking assistance up to 80% for this extension.

Extending the Chippewa Falls network two miles to the St. Joseph's Hospital campus is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000. This connection to the Chippewa Falls Campus will provide the **hub** and point of departure to the rural communities north of Chippewa Falls. The Medical facilities in these communities are connected with a fiber system now. Bringing this extension to the north side *of* Chippewa Falls, two miles, these twenty rural medical clinics will have access to the BadgerNet and Internet2 system. We are seeking 80% funding to assist with this project.

The primacy goal of this project is **to** extend the broadband network to rural health care providers in Northwestern Wisconsin. This initiative **will** support and enable electronic medical record and telemedicine services to rural communities. It will assist and enable communications in support of Healthcare and government response to Homeland Security planning and response, and add to the economic security of rural communities.

1. St. Joseph's Hospital qualifies for a disproportionate share hospital to receive additional operating and capital payments because it serves a number of low-income, special needs, and uninsured patients in the community. St. Joseph's Hospital provides care for a greater percentage of Medicare and Medicaid patients in their servicing area.

The State disproportionate share hospital payment is provided in accordance with the federal Social Security Act, Section 1902 (a)(13)(A)(iv) and Section 1923.

## Rural Health Care Telemedicine Pilot Program Application

St. Joseph's Hospital would like to complete a broadband network that connects multiple health care providers in the Chippewa Valley (see maps for detailed interconnectivity).

*Identify* the organization that will be legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities supported by the fund;

St. Joseph's Hospital will be legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities supported by this application.

Identify the goals and objectives of the proposed network;

St. Joseph's Hospital is proposing to install two conduits with one 288 pair fiber connecting Chippewa Falls to Eau Claire and extending the existing fiber backbone to St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Valley Technical School and Marshfield Clinic.

The goal of the proposed network is to position the Chippewa Valley to be innovative, competitive, and economically viable for the present and future generations through a coordinated regional communication infrastructure. The objectives of this proposed network are to: enhance economic development, encourage providers to offer more options, encourage telemedicine uses, enhance educational opportunities, and increase efficiency operations. It would allow increased capability to communicate with local health care providers and city and county governments. We have an immediate need to move large digital PACS images (Picture Archiving Communication System) to other health care providers in our region to better serve our patient population.

Estimate the *network's* total *costs* for each year;

The fiber run to connect Chippewa Falls to Eau Claire is estimated at \$475,000.

The fiber run to connect Chippewa Falls network to St. Joseph's Hospital is estimated at \$200,000.

On going maintenance is estimated at \$2500 to \$3000 annually per partner

Describe how for-profit network participants will pay their fair share of the network costs;

The network's current design is to allow for city and county governments, public educational institutions, and not-for-profit healthcare providers to collaborate and create broadband connections between partners.

4 sites, only 3 addresses

*Identify the source of financial support and anticipated revenues that will pay for costs not covered by the fund;*

The components to this infrastructure network will be budgeted items for St. Joseph's Hospital which is a Medicare approved facility and a disproportionate share hospital.

*List the health care facilities that will be included in the network;*

- o St. Joseph's Hospital (A disproportionate share hospital)
- o Sacred Heart Hospital
- o ~~Luther Hospital~~
- o Chippewa County Dental Foundation Inc. ( Federally Qualified Health Care Center facility)

No address

*Provide the address, zip code, Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) code and phone number for each health care facility participating in the network;*

①

St. Joseph's Hospital, **2661** County Hwy I, Chippewa Falls, WI **54729**, RUCA 1.0, **715-723-1811**.

Annually St. Joseph's Hospital also serves numerous patients from other areas. The table below depicts our top ten geographical volume of patient visits and cases. The data is from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005 through 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006 and doesn't include outpatient services.

| Zip Code | City       | Inpatients& ambulatory | RUCA# |
|----------|------------|------------------------|-------|
| 54727    | Cadott     | 554                    | 2     |
| 54732    | Cornell    | 512                    | 2     |
| 54724    | Blomher    | 379                    | 7.1   |
| 54768    | Stanley    | 274                    | 10.4  |
| 54745    | Holcombe   | 236                    | 3     |
| 54703    | Eau Claire | 201                    | 1     |
| 54748    | Jim Falls  | 171                    | 2     |
| 54771    | Thorp      | 171                    | 10    |
| 54726    | Boyd       | 159                    | 2     |
| 54757    | New Auburn | 131                    | 3     |

②

Sacred Heart Hospital, **900** W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI **54701**, RUCA 1.0, **715-839-4121**

③

Luther Hospital, **1221** Whipple Street, PO Box **4105** Eau Claire, WI **54702**, RUCA 1, **715-838-3311**

*Indicate previous experience in developing and managing telemedicine programs;*

St. Joseph's Hospital is currently providing telemedicine services to our Home Health patients. Additionally, St. Joseph's Hospital has provided teleradiology services for emergency patients to digitize films to be read by off-site radiologists.

*Provide a project management plan outlining the project's leadership and management structure, as well as its work plan, schedule, and budget;*

St. Joseph's Hospital will coordinate this project with Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium and its partners in conjunction with Wisconsin Department of Transportation to obtain all of the right of way permits to install the backbone fiber. Installation and design work will be conducted by various cable contractors including a detailed bill of materials. It is our intention to have the fiber broadband available for use this summer 2007. We estimate that St. Joseph's Hospital's portion of the of the estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000 fiber backbone pull to be approximately \$100,000 with an additional \$200,000 for the fiber installation from Parkview Elementary School. St. Joseph's Hospital will also incur approximately \$60,000 worth of expense to terminate and install end point equipment to enable this broadband connection.

*Indicate how the telemedicine program will be coordinated throughout the state or region; and*

The Chippewa Valley regional telernedecine program will be implemented once the broadband network is operational. This would allow St. Joseph's Hospital patients to be seen in our ER, have X-rays, CT scans or MRI images taken, sent and read by a radiologist at Sacred Heart or Luther Hospitals. St. Joseph's Hospital does not have the ability to provide 24/7 on site radiologist support. Utilizing this type of broadband network will greatly improve patient care services in Chippewa Falls. Additionally, by utilizing specialist and this broadband connection opens up many future opportunities for patients in our area to be seen by specialists without the need to travel great distances while improving the health care quality and services to a disproportionate region.

*Indicate to what extent the network can be self-sustaining once established.*

Ongoing maintenance cost will be shared among participants. End telecommunications equipment will be the responsibility of the individual entities. Annual maintenance costs are pooled to cover the costs of locating as well as fixing any damaged cable.











# Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium - CINC

## Network Summary w/congestion points displayed

Rev 5.01.2007

Created by UW Eau Claire  
Network Engineer - Daren Sauer

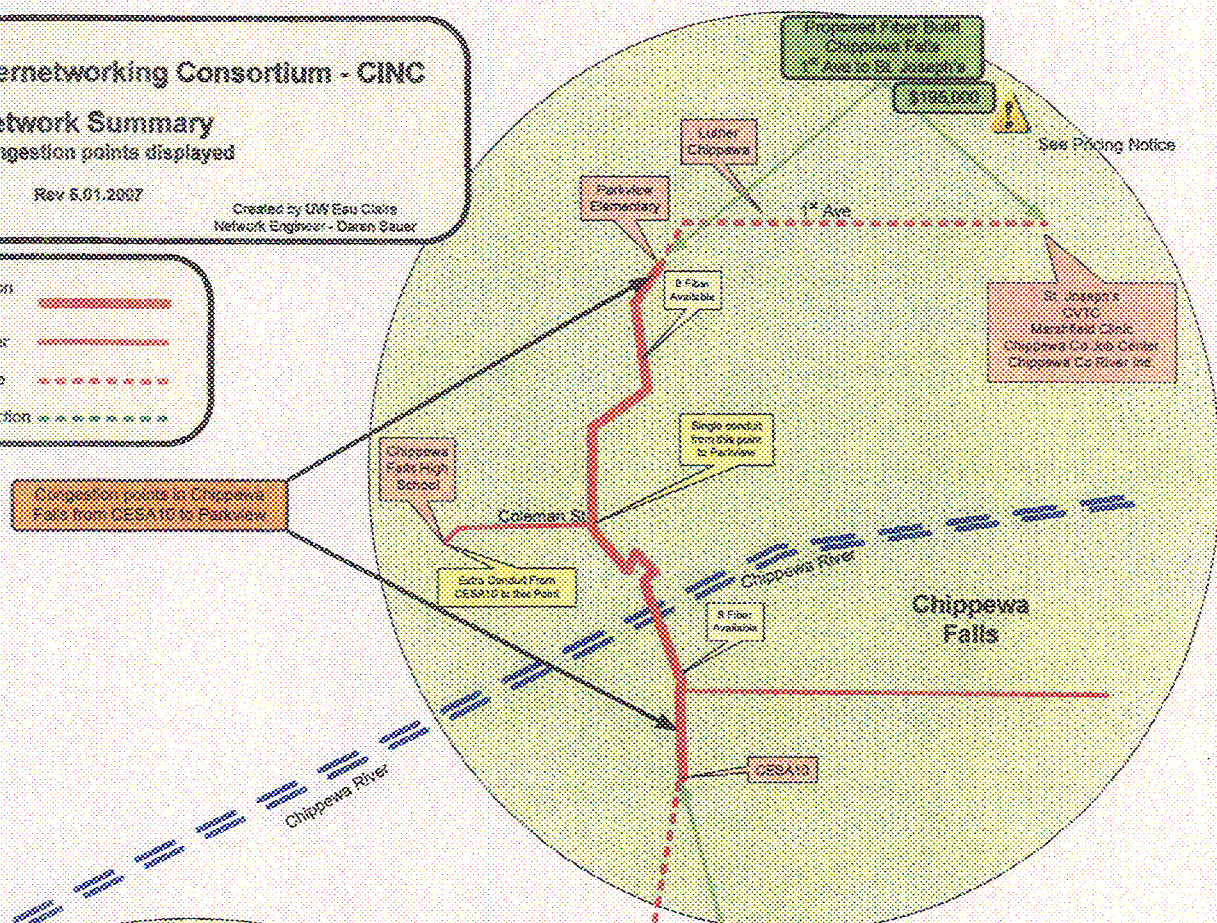
Future Congested Links on  
existing buried fibers

Existing buried fiber

Planned fiber route

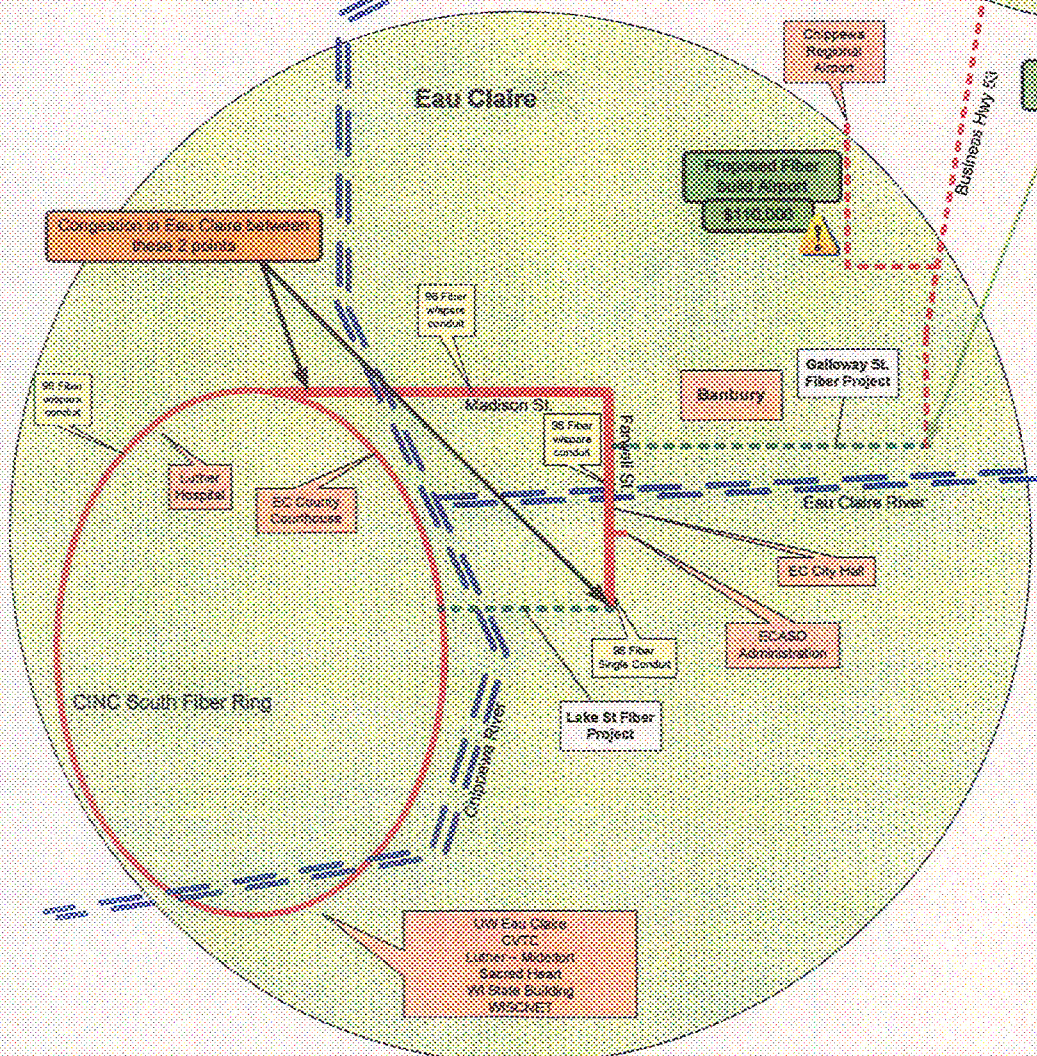
Fiber route under construction

Congestion points in Chippewa  
Falls from CESATD to Parkview



## Eau Claire

Congestion in Eau Claire between  
these 2 points



## Pricing Notice

- The fiber vendor recommends that we have a contingency fund of 10%
- Price does not reflect lateral fibers, each entity will be responsible for their own costs to enter and terminate fiber in their buildings



